

Washington, DC- Congressman Harry Teague announced Tuesday that the New Mexico Department of Information Technology was awarded \$1.9 million in funding for broadband technology expansion. The grant is part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project will increase broadband access and adoption through better data collection and broadband planning.

The broadband initiative funding announced today will go toward two goals in New Mexico. Approximately \$1.4 million will be utilized for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period, with \$500,000 allocated to broadband planning activities over a five-year period.

"In many rural communities throughout southern New Mexico, internet access is still considered a luxury. This grant will help identify and assist those areas currently lacking or requiring additional broadband access," said Congressman Harry Teague. "I am encouraged to see recovery funds being used to provide the resources needed to build local economies and job opportunities across the region. Investments in broadband programs help foster long-term opportunities for competition and economic growth."

In December, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded the New Mexico State Library an additional \$1,457,488 in recovery funding to expand broadband technology and access across New Mexico. The "Fast Forward New Mexico" program, administered through a partnership with the University of New Mexico, Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship, and the 1st-Mile Institute, aims to increase statewide broadband adoption and promote computer literacy and Internet use in rural, Hispanic and Native American populations. The initiative will also reach out to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

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